



**Frederick County  
Government  
Frederick, Maryland**

## *News Release*

Winchester Hall / 12 East Church Street  
Frederick, Maryland 21701  
CONTACT: Robin K. Santangelo  
Public Information Officer  
301-600-2590  
rsantangelo@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 20, 2011

*Improved Access to Information and Services...*  
**FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
IMPROVES WEBSITE WITH CITIZEN-FRIENDLY FEATURES**

FREDERICK, MD – As of today, visitors to the Frederick County Government website ([www.FrederickCountyMD.gov](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov)) will find a fresh new look to the homepage with a more citizen-friendly design and main links for government, online services, residents, business and visitors. Links to frequently visited sites such as TransIT, park facilities and recreational events, the Health Department, Sheriff's Office, online payments, e-news signup, FCG TV, county commissioner meeting schedules and tax information are also conveniently located on the homepage.

Board President Blaine Young commented, "With technology changing at a rapid pace and many more of our citizens using mobile devices to access information, we are pleased that this invigoration of the county website offers so many more 'citizen centric' tools and features than the previous version that we have utilized since 2007. We were sorely in need of an update to the website and the result is impressive.

"With budgetary concerns always in the forefront, we are also glad to say that the website was refreshed with no additional cost to the taxpayers of Frederick County. A team of county employees guided by the Interagency Information Technologies Division worked with our outside website provider to add new features and make sure the most popular links are more readily accessible. We thank the team for their outstanding job in updating a very important public information tool for our citizens."

The new photos on the homepage reflect the county's rich history in agriculture, the Board of County Commissioners' emphasis on business-friendly policies, the burgeoning field of biotechnology and the plentiful opportunities for visitors and residents alike to shop in municipal downtown areas. In addition, a new slideshow feature will provide photo coverage of current events and activities in county government.

(more)

The updated website also has a greatly improved search feature, is mobile device friendly and offers high resolution viewing. The previous version was designed for older, lower resolution monitors and the refreshed website design takes advantage of a higher resolution for computer monitors.

The refreshed design utilizes current industry best practices in terms of web design features and functionality, including the ability to resize text size (an advantage to vision impaired website visitors) and to translate webpage content into a number of languages. A new section called “how do I” on the top menu will allow visitors to link to online payments, permits and projects, bids and requests for proposals, and online forms.

The website is maintained by designated employees in each county department with oversight provided by the technologies division.

The division originally outsourced the website to CivicPlus ([www.civicplus.com](http://www.civicplus.com)), a leading provider of local government website design, content management and e-government services across the nation, to provide this special website system in 2007. Through an outstanding relationship with this technology partner, the county negotiated the refresh of the website at no additional cost.

For more information about the Frederick County Government website, contact Public Information Officer Robin Santangelo at 301-600-2590 or via e-mail at [rsantangelo@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:rsantangelo@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

###